

## HEAVY LIFTING FOR NEW HOMES



Rotaractors from the University of New South Wales in Australia will travel to India and Mongolia in July as part of Habitat for Humanity's Global Village Youth Program, which sends volunteers ages 14-25 to other countries to help needy people build new homes.

Since 2004, the Rotaractors have traveled on the program to Cambodia, Fiji, the Philippines, and Thailand. They've paid their own travel and lodging expenses with help from corporate donations and eight Rotary clubs in New South Wales.

Rotaractor Yiling Cheah went on the Philippines trip in 2005 and led another trip in 2007 to Cambodia. There, she and 10 others built two houses in six days and donated money to build a home for a blind elderly woman and her grandson.

Covered with mud and sweat, the volunteers in Cambodia mixed cement, laid bricks, and hauled soil in wicker baskets. The work was exhausting, but the bigger problem was the ankle-deep water caused by flooding. "The soil we carried was wet, meaning that it was a lot heavier to carry. It also meant that we had to work with things hidden in the water, whether it was our tools or parasites," Cheah recalls.

Rotaractors from the University of New South Wales, Australia traveled to Cambodia in 2007 to help needy residents build new homes. *Photo courtesy of the Rotaract Club of the University of New South Wales.*

The hard work seemed worthwhile when the homes were presented to their new owners in a special ceremony. "The homeowners were in tears of joy. They were also in tears of sadness because we were about to leave, and they never really got to know us due to language barriers," Cheah says. "The homeowners didn't know how to thank us for what we had given them, and we didn't know what to say. It was only then that our team members realized what a huge contribution we had made to two families' lives in a matter of six days."

## Rotarians are *PUTTING ON THE BLITZ*

President Wilf has made membership growth one of the corner stones of his theme "Rotary Shares". The result is that across Zone 22 and other zones across North America we have turned the corner from membership loss to modest membership growth. Regretfully, the level of membership growth is not what we had hoped.

Rotary International Director Monty Audenart, and the Zone membership team, feel that the best way to give a boost to RIP Wilf's goal is to have a two week membership blitz across the Zone. In April, 2008, Rotary International Zone 22 is planning a "*Membership Recruitment Blitz*".

Your club is encouraged to hold at least one membership event during the first two weeks in April.

DG (07-08) John B0sch



# The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of  
MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: [www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge\\_Rotary](http://www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary)

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## March is Literacy Month



### INVOCATION

Mar. 11	Dot Ralston	Mar. 18	Dave Rempel
April 1	Gord Robson	April 8	Mary Robson

TODAY'S PROGRAM: John Meier – Antique & Rare Books Expert

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Barbara Desjardins – North Fraser Therapeutic Riding Assoc.

### CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
March 25	6:00 pm	Fireside Meeting	Lawn Bowling Club on 232 <sup>nd</sup>
April 1	noon	New Member Drive Meeting	La Trattoria
April 12		District Assembly	Kwantlen University College, Surrey, BC
May 15		2008 District 50/50 Conference	Holiday Inn, Pine Street, Everett, WA
June 15 -18		Rotary International Conference	Los Angeles

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$687.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 25 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 11: Patrick O'Brien

March 13: Mike Lindvik

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

### Announcements:

Dave Rempel advised the Club responded very well to the R.M.E.F. Dinner.

Bob announced the Fireside will be held on March 25 at the Lawn Bowling Club on 232. Bowling starts at 5:00 p.m. and meeting at 6:00 p.m.

April 1<sup>st</sup> luncheon will be held at La Trattoria. This will be our Annual Membership Drive plus we will be making a presentation to Harry Chalal (the owner of La Trattoria)

Wine Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 13, 2008.

The Executive Meeting will be March 12<sup>th</sup> at Thomas Haney School.

Mike Davies of Community Services requested permission for the \$1000.00 cheque, which has been approved for the Speed Watch Machine, be hand delivered to Derek Keist rather than Derek coming by to pick up.

Our Guest Speaker was Dean Barbour (Executive Director of Chamber of Commerce).

Dean grew up in Maple Ridge and is well connected in the community.

Dean became the Executive Director in 2007 and gave us a very informative presentation. A handout, which explains the Vision, was distributed. Some of the key items Dean discussed were:

1. **The Mission Statement** - is to maintain a role of leadership, advocacy, connectivity and resourcefulness in the Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows business community while fostering and sustaining a viable economic climate for the members and preferred partners.
2. **2008 Top Ten Key Initiatives:**
  - Increase membership
  - Increase and sustain revenues
  - Increase visibility for the Chamber and its members in both the local community and areas bordered by the community.
  - Assess and report on "Gateway" and its effect on the local business community
  - Connect all key stakeholders in the community and create an open and respectful venue for proactive dialogue
  - Leverage the Chamber's position and membership numbers to force policy change
  - Add product an service offerings that benefit members daily



- Create events and networking opportunities to recognize and connect members and non-members to each other and the consumers in the community
- Provide business development solutions for all business types and business professionals
- Ensure highest level of membership satisfaction

### 3. Vision 2008 Highlights:

- Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows – Open for Business Campaign – February 2008
- Spirit of B.C. – 2020 Commerce Centre – Open
- Small Business BC- Satellite Office - Open
- Business Resource Centre – Open
- Business Development Workshops – Open
- Spring Business Development Workshop Services
- B2B Networking Events – Monthly
- Preferred Partner's Programs and Member Discounts
- New Member Open House
- Business Distinction Awards
- Business Luncheon
- Chamber Golf Tournament (June 25)
- Chamber Fest – Member Recognition and Thanks (Aug. 16)
- Small Business Week
- Business Excellence Awards (Oct. 15)

Submitted by Maureen Goodrick

## DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Captain: Carol Tichelman  
Date: Apr 12, 2008 at 8:00 - Apr 12, 2008 at 2:00  
Event Fee: \$30.00 CAD  
Location: Kwantlen University College  
12666 72 Avenue Surrey, BC

This is the largest training event of the Rotary year for Rotarians in District 5050.

There will be workshops on many topics including: Club Service, International Service, Community Service; Vocational Service, as well as sessions for presidents-Elect, Treasurers, Secretaries and Membership chairs.

There will also be sessions on Youth Exchange, Ambassadorial Scholarships, RYLA and Rotaract, Literacy, Public Relations, Fund raising, protocol, club programs, and World Community Service Grants and more!

This is a great chance for new board members to learn about their roles. The Assembly is also great for new members wanting to learn more about the world of Rotary.